



OMES at-a-Glance



News for Otis A. Mason Families

March 24, 2022

207 Mason Manatee Way, St. Augustine, FL 32086
(904) 547-8440 – main (904) 547-8445 – fax

Mrs. Monique Keaton, Principal
Mrs. Anne Marie Raynor, Assistant Principal

Manatee Highlight: Our Extended Day Coordinator, Mrs. Stevens?



Mrs. Melinda Stevens has been the Extended Day coordinator here at Otis A. Mason for 19 years. She loves working with children because even though the faces are the same, every day is different. You never know who or how you will impact a child's life each day.

Mrs. Stevens was born in Atlanta, Georgia and lived there until moving to St. Augustine, Florida. She likes nothing better than to sit on the beach and read a good book. Mrs. Stevens also likes to ride motorcycles and go out on the boat. She considers herself to be a pretty good cook and baker, also. Mrs. Stevens has been married to her High School sweetheart for almost 45 years and they have three sons. When asked what she wanted to share with the Otis A. Mason Community, she said: "I feel very lucky to live in such a beautiful place and work at a wonderful school."

If you need Extended Day services here at Otis A. Mason, please contact Ms. Stevens at 904-547-8440. We offer extended day services before school, after school or both. You may view Extended Day information at our website as well:

<https://www-mes.stjohns.k12.fl.us/daycare/>

Thank you for your dedication to our school, Mrs. Stevens. You are so appreciated for the love you share with our students. We are lucky to have YOU!

Character Highlight: This Month is all about the Pillar of TRUSTWORTHINESS!

Every month our school highlights and teaches a different pillar of character. The focus for the month of March is TRUSTWORTHINESS. Why is it so important to be trustworthy in our community? Trustworthiness is the very foundation of a civil society, and it is what we would like to define us as a community. We here at Otis A. Mason Elementary believe that every parent, student, teacher, and member of our community should **strive to be a TRUSTWORTHY member of the community.**

- **Be honest.** It is so important that your child see honesty in various situations regularly. There are so many ambiguous situations that your child needs guidance on in daily life. Guide them with honesty and help walk your child through the right, honest choice and explain why the honest approach is the best one.
- **Be reliable.** It is so important to do what you say you will do. Whether making a promise or issuing a consequence, exemplify to your child what it means to be dependable in your word and deed.
- **Do the right thing even when no one is watching.** Be a brave superhero and applaud your child for making good choices (especially when they did it on their own!).
- **Teach your child the importance of a good reputation.** Being a trustworthy person with a good reputation opens innumerable doors of opportunity. Act as if every action is publicized on the front page of the newspaper or broadcast on YouTube.
- **Dive into examples and scenarios:** Does omitting the truth count as a lie? Does it count as stealing if the item is lost? What about inexpensive? What is the right thing to do if your child finds a wallet? Cash on the ground? Teach real-life applications.

Have questions about Character Counts! or character education? Contact our School Counselor, Mrs. Holtz at Katherine.holtz@stjohns.k12.fl.us. We are always available to support you with character education.

The Six Pillars of CharacterSM



Technology Corner:

Need help accessing one of our services online?

SCHOOLGY ACCESS:

Stjohnsschools.schoolgy.com

You will then be prompted to sign into Microsoft:

S#####@stjohns.k12.fl.us and the student's password

HOME ACCESS CENTER (HAC):

HAC

access is through the parent-provided email address and password. Please call the Front Office if you are having access issues (547-8440). Students have access to HAC with their student ID number and password.

<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/hac/>

SCHOOL ACCESS FORM: Stjohns.keepntrack.com/apply

ACCELERATED READER HOME CONNECT: <https://www-mes.stjohns.k12.fl.us/media/>

SCHOOL MESSENGER:

Opt-

in to school messages here:

<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/schoolmessenger/>

LOST ITEMS NEED TO BE FOUND: HELP!

We continue to search for the owners of items in our vast Lost and Found located in the cafeteria. PLEASE have your student check this area regularly. They may stop by before or after school or during lunch or with teacher permission. Any approved volunteers are also welcome to sign-in at the Front Office and check the Lost and Found for items belonging to their family.



- LABEL all items belonging to your child including backpacks, jackets, water bottles, lunch boxes
- CHECK, CHECK, CHECK! Talk to your child about checking their surroundings before they leave an area.
- BE ON THE LOOK OUT! Check the Lost and Found regularly.

Expressing Gratitude

We are so grateful for the expressions of gratitude that we receive, and we would love to start sharing them regularly with the entire school community. If you have noticed awesome faculty, staff, or students or incredible stories that made your day, please share! We are accepting these positive expressions of our OMES community via our "Contact Us" link on the OMES website or at our school email address: mes@stjohns.k12.fl.us Here is one we would love to share:

"I want to say thank you to your team for making my granddaughter's days at school such happy ones! Yesterday when I got her at the bus stop, she was giddy with excitement over getting a positive reward, shout out at the end of the day! (She and a friend held a door for someone without them asking). I know, as a retired educator of 35 years, that the positives sometimes go unnoticed by "the public" and the negatives are front and center so, I just wanted to say a big THANK YOU for all that you and your staff do to make Mason a wonderful learning place! My granddaughter also LOVED seeing her teacher and your staff at Tijuana Flats on spirit night!"



School Safety is a Priority:

Every member of the Otis A. Mason Community is encouraged to **download the FORTIFY FL app** onto any cell phone and tablet device for free to help us keep our community safe. The app provides an easy way to alert authorities regarding crime, suspicious behavior, or anything that constitutes a threat to our schools.





It is that time of year again! The Kids Heart Challenge Jump Rope For Heart (JR4H) Event begins March 21st and continues until April 1st. Students will learn about health and fitness and also work to raise money for the American Heart Association. Children will be bringing home information and an invitation to participate. Our school goal is to raise \$11,000 and many prizes are available to students!

March 21-April 1: Students will raise money for Jump Rope for Heart (Envelopes due 4/1)

March 21-April 1: Students will participate in the jump rope event during their regularly scheduled PE class time

Questions? Please contact Coach Hollister or Coach Davis at 904-547-8440 or email them at mes@stjohns.k12.fl.us. Teachers will be sending home more information. You may also check out this website:

<http://www2.heart.org/goto/otismasonelementary>

Goodwill "Bag it Up!" Event April 4th through 8th



VOLUNTEERS needed for FSA Testing!

We have a critical need for volunteers to help during testing season this year. Please consider helping us make this testing season a success.

Please make sure you are a cleared volunteer first:
Stjohns.keepntrack.com/apply

Once cleared, there is a very short training presentation and a test proctor contract. Please contact the school with questions or for help becoming a school volunteer. (904)-547-8440



FSU Professional Learning Program

Teachers in our school are participating in a research study conducted by Florida State University to better understand how a professional learning program for teachers called Cognitively Guided Instruction impacts mathematics teaching and learning. You have the right to have your child's information withheld from the study if you do not wish to participate. Please review the parental notification letter for more information about the study:

<https://teachingisproblemsolving.org/parental-notification>

Important Dates:

March 21-April 1: Kids Heart Challenge! To raise money for the American Heart Association

March 24: ***POSTPONED*** Celebrating 30 Years of Spring Festival has been postponed due to weather! No festival today!

March 29: Report Cards Issued

April: FSA Testing Begins; WE NEED VOLUNTEERS to help proctor tests-please sign up 😊

April 1: Envelopes for Jump Rope for Heart are due today

April 4-8: Goodwill Bag it Up Program-bring in donations

April 26: Interims Issued